Remarks

This is in response to the non-final Office Action mailed on March 1, 2005. Claims 3, 4, 9, 10, 15, 16, and 28-30 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 7, 13, and 19 are amended. Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 13, 14, and 19-27 remain pending. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

I.   Claim Amendments

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate subject matter from dependent claims 3 and 4. Claim 7 is amended to incorporate subject matter from dependent claims 9 and 10. Claim 13 is amended to incorporate subject matter from dependent claims 15 and 16. Claim 19 is amended to incorporate subject matter from dependent claims 28-30.

II.   Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

In Section 5 of the Office Action, claims 1-4, 7-10, 13-16, and 19-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fowlow et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,189,138, in view of Goldberg et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,571,232. This rejection is respectfully traversed, and the correctness of this rejection is not conceded. Reconsideration is requested for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 recites a method of creating programmable data objects including, among other limitations, the following:

- editing the processing items within the visual design surface module, wherein the processing items comprise properties and processing instruction source code;
- updating the processing items edited within the visual design surface module;
- updating the typed dataset within the visual design surface module;
- updating the command adapters within the visual design surface module;
- identifying any other processing items containing references to data structures and functions edited; and
- updating the identified items containing references to the data structures and functions edited to make all references consistent with each other.

An advantage associated with such a method is that a programmer can alter the source code used to specify the processing items and their respective supporting functions and methods. When the

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changes are saved, the visual design surface module can incorporate these changes into other processing items, as necessary, so that consistency is maintained. Application, p. 19, ll. 9-19.

In contrast, neither Fowlow nor Goldberg, alone or in combination, discloses or suggests such a method. For example, Fowlow discloses an editor 800 for modifying various interfaces for use with the application being composed. Fowlow, col. 4, ll. 18-21; col. 13, ll. 17-30; and col. 14, ll. 43-58. However, Fowlow does not disclose or suggest identifying any other processing items containing references to data structures and functions edited, and updating the identified items containing references to the data structures and functions edited to make all references consistent with each other, as recited by claim 1. Goldberg likewise fails to disclose or suggest such a method.

Reconsideration and allowance of claim 1, as well as claim 2 that depends therefrom, are therefore respectfully requested.

Independent claims 7, 13, and 19 all include limitations similar to those noted above with respect to claim 1. Therefore, claims 7, 13, and 19, as well as claims 8, 14, and 20-27 that depend respectively therefrom, should be allowable for at least reasons similar to those provided above with respect to claim 1. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

III.   Conclusion

The remarks set forth above provide certain arguments in support of the patentability of the pending claims. There may be other reasons that the pending claims are patentably distinct over the cited references, and the right to raise any such other reasons or arguments in the future is expressly reserved.

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Favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and remarks. Please contact the undersigned attorney with any questions regarding this application.

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